

THE FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATE

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association

www.fpha.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....



Greetings,

It's that time of year to motivate you to attend our Annual Education Conference! This is YOUR opportunity to meet and network with friends and peers from around the state, hear and learn the latest of what is going on in Public Health and how it can impact your work and everyday life!

Your participation and involvement is what keeps FPHA strong and relevant. We hear you and are listening. We want to hear from more of you!

Since last year's Conference we have been busy. Our advocacy and legislative involvement is more active. Chris Nuland kept us updated weekly during the legislative committees/sessions and you can get more involved in having our voices heard. Have you joined us and shared our posts on social media? We increase followers every day. FPHA wants to share your information as well, send it in. We heard you when you wanted us to post more professional opportunities and information on our web site. Not only have we done that, but there is also a member's only section. Our Strategic Plan has been updated and we are now looking at how to improve the Sections to serve you better. With that, we sent a survey. Did you respond? Have more ideas? Please share them!

We need your help increasing membership, including renewing yours! Please join us at the conference. I hope to see you there!

Regards

Lori

JULY, 2013

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From the Executive Office

Just a few things to let you know about.

Election of Officers

Past President Jeff Keiser is putting together the slate for 2013-14 officers. If you want to know more about a specific office, you can call me or contact Jeff at:

medchoice@bellsouth.net

The available positions are:

1st VP – automatically goes up to President Elect and then President

2nd VP

Secretary – two year term, 2013-2015

Member at Large – three year term, 2013-2016

APHA Representative – three year term and must attend APHA Committee on Affiliates Meetings/calls/etc.

FPHA Sections – What to do??

The FPHA Board has recognized that not all sections are working for their section members and something needs to be done. A committee is being formed to address this problem and is meeting via conference calls and wants to hold a focus group at the FPHA Annual Meeting. Discussion will center around: What types of sections do we need?; Do we need sections?; How should they function?; What should the section member expect?; What is the structure of the section – officers, etc.?; And more. If you are interested in participating on this committee or the focus group, please email me at floridapha@bellsouth.net. You can also send your ideas to me and I will share with the committee. FPHA is your organization and wants to meet your needs.

Social Media

We need help with our social media efforts. Our committee is small but active, yet there is a lot that can still be done. Want to help? Send me an email with your ideas. Thanks!

Membership

Membership is what supports FPHA. Dues should completely cover the cost of staff and normal business expenses. Be *sure* to renew your dues when notified. Also, help us recruit new members or get former members back. We will be organizing a new membership committee, and would love to have some dynamic public health professionals to help us reach out and spread the word.



FPHA Foundation Included in the 2013 Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign (United Way)

We are pleased to announce that the FPHA Foundation is again approved as an organization included in the FSECC for this year. Once we know the number assigned, we will let you know. This is one way you can help support the FPHA Foundation so that it can offer more educational meetings & other opportunities to you throughout Florida.

FPHA Annual Educational Conference Coming Soon!

The 2013 FPHA Annual Educational Conference is from August 28, through August 30, 2013. The Conference is a fantastic opportunity to network with your colleagues and to learn new things about public health in Florida.

The meeting will take place at the Florida Hotel, 1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, 32809.

Be sure to participate in early registration, which is through August 7, 2013.

For a copy of the program or more information, click on the **Events** tab at fpha.org, or contact the FPHA at 904-529-1401.

News you can Use: The FPHA Web Site

When was the last time you visited our web site, fpha.org? Whether you are a new FPHA member, or if you've been a member for many years, the web site is the best resource for up-to-date Florida public health news. The following Featured Tabs section is just a sample of the many tabs and pages available at fpha.org. Please take a few minutes to look around, and we appreciate your feedback and suggestions on how to make fpha.org the best public health web site in Florida, and in the nation!

FPHA.org Featured Tabs

About

If you hover your mouse over the About tab, you will have the option to visit three pages: History, Mission and Values, Officers, and Sections. Spend some time on each page, and then choose a section or two that best fits your interests. Visit the About tab today to see how you can get involved!

Membership

Joining the FPHA, or renewing an existing membership is easy! Just visit the Membership tab, and choose your level. You will then be guided through a secure subscription process, and you will receive a record of payment. After joining, be sure to create your profile, using the box in the upper right corner. You can then obtain access to the Members Only pages, which includes a current member directory. Become part of the FPHA community, and support Florida Public Health. Join or renew today!

News

Visit the News tab, and learn about what's happening in the world of Florida Public Health! This tab includes a valuable Careers page, as well as interesting Member News and Legislative Updates pages.

Donate

If every FPHA member donated just \$5.00, think of the impact that we could have. That is less than the cost of an average lunch! **Take the \$5.00 challenge**, and watch your donation work for you. Please visit the Donate tab today, and thank you for your support.

National Public Health Week Activities - Highlights from around the state

The Gator Nation and National Public Health Week

The University of Florida Public Health Student Association planned several events to educate fellow students and the public about the contributions of public health to our communities during National Public Health Week. They hosted a campus health fair, a seminar on cultural competence and emotional health in the workplace presented by Dr. Catherine Striley, a presentation for girls 5 to 18 on overcoming bullying and raising self-esteem, and a screening of the documentary "How to Survive a Plague." The UF chapter of Delta Omega and the Public Health Student Association also painted a mural outside the children's reading room at St. Francis House, a local facility that serves people who are homeless.



Bay County Know your Numbers Diabetes Event

What life-threatening, life-sapping, energy-robbing condition affects one in every two Americans (that is every other person) including 80% of those overweight and up to 40% of normal weight people? Dr. Mark Hyman, medical advisor to the TV show *The Doctor Oz Medical Show*, states that this condition is responsible for more deaths from heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, diabetes and dementia than anything else.

The answer to this medical problem is Diabetesity – the obesity-diabetes epidemic. Diabetesity is the continuum of metabolic disturbances from mild blood sugar and insulin imbalances to pre-diabetes to full-blown Type 2 diabetes. Diabetesity is preventable, treatable and possibly reversible.

To counter the impact of this condition in Bay County, Douglas M. Kent, County Health Department Administrator and 2013 Statewide Community Healthcare Pioneer of the Year, in partnership with the Bay County Community Health Task Force, and the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corp envisioned a large scale outreach including over 29 sites where citizens of Bay County could be screened for "Diabetesity" risk.



Approximately 150 Florida Department of Health in Bay County employees and Bay Area Medical Reserve Corp volunteers participated in this mass screening. Over 1100 citizens were screened at various county sites on April 5, 2013. Participants were given information to make healthy eating choices to help them prevent this disease.

Bay County Commissioner Bill Dozier kicked off the day's event by reading a proclamation at 10:00 AM at the Bay County Government Center on 11th Street in Panama City. Commissioner Dozier then participated in the Diabetes risk screening event and received testing and information regarding his screening. He was well pleased with the experience. Over 90 participants however, had readings that were above normal limits. They were advised to follow up with their local medical provider or in a few cases to head to an emergency room for immediate treatment. In a screening such as this, a questionable reading does not necessarily mean one is a diabetic but merely indicates the person should seek follow up with their family medical practitioner.

This "Know Your Numbers" large-scale outreach may have been the largest screening of this type in Florida history. The event was designed as a mass prophylaxis event with a greeter, registration, point of dispensing, and exit. Every volunteer was trained before the event in their particular area of responsibility. DOH regional personnel were brought in to evaluate the event and reported on their findings.

Over 25 Bay Area Medical Reserve Corp volunteers from the nursing program at Gulf Coast State College were trained and participated in the event.

The Florida Department of Health, the Community Health Task Force, and the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corp are planning other similar events in the spring through next fall with the goal in mind to test as many people as possible and provide them with the information they need to "Know Their Numbers!"

Hillsborough County STD Awareness Day

Nationally, each year the month of **April** is designated as **STD Awareness Month**. In April 2012, our Health Department started holding a free screening event on a day in April to bring awareness the existence of these diseases in our community, encourage people to test to know their status and seek treatment, if needed. Our Second Annual STD Awareness Day will take place at the Specialty Care Center on April 29th, 2013 from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm and we will again be offering free Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Syphilis, HIV and Hepatitis testing. From 10:00 am-2:00 pm we want to focus on any young folks wanting to test since it is a school "early release" day.

In the United States each year about 50 percent of all new STD cases (20 million, including HIV and others) occur in people ages 15-24, even though they only represent about 25 percent of the sexually experienced population. Here are some local statistics comparing Florida and Hillsborough in 2012:

<u>2012 Florida total STDs (not including HIV)</u>	<u>Hillsborough</u>
Syphilis – 4,443	401
Chlamydia – 77,886	7,124
Gonorrhea – 19,557	2,160

Hillsborough County – 2012 – Between ages 15-24

Syphilis – 116
Chlamydia – 4,913
Gonorrhea – 1,346

For more information visit <http://www.cdc.gov/features/stdawareness/>

FPHA Members in the News

Congratulations to **Rhonda White** for being selected the USF 2013 Outstanding Woman in Public Health. Rhonda directs the Office of Performance and Quality Improvement for the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee. For more information on her award go to:
<http://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/blog/2013/04/02/usf-names-rhonda-white-2013-florida-outstanding-woman-in-public-health/>



Dr. Eric Buhi, Associate Professor in Community and Family Health was recently appointed to the editorial board of the American Journal of Public Health. This appointment will begin in November 2013 at the annual American Association of Public Health meeting in Boston, MA. The appointment term is three years.

President, Lori Jordahl was recognized for her efforts in HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Florida by Member of Congress, Frederica S. Wilson. Both Lori and her co-worker Christina Morrow were listed in the Congressional Record.



Mike Reid, FPHA Past President, was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, Central Methodist University. The award is given annually to honor “alumni of exemplary character who have attained success in their chosen professions and distinguished themselves by leadership and services to their communities, the University, and society.” Dr. Reid was recognized at a banquet on May 4. For the full article, go to:

<http://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/health/publichealth/news/?p=12486>

Share your news with us. Send it to floridapha@bellsouth.net.

